

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
CONTINGENCY PLAN Q & A DOCUMENT  
APRIL 8, 2011**

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios. The following document provides information regarding the Bureau of Reclamation's contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown.

**Will my water or power delivery be affected?**

No. Sufficient employees will remain in place to ensure Reclamation's ongoing "excepted" operations, which include providing water and power.

**Which Reclamation employees will remain on the job during this period?**

Reclamation's employees who directly assist in delivering water and power at 476 dams -- including 58 power plants -- will remain on the job under a lapse in appropriations. These employees and others deemed "excepted" will continue providing water and power across 17 western states.

**What happens if there's a big storm or rapid snow melt which creates flooding conditions?  
Will Reclamation be prepared for this possibility and other emergencies?**

In addition to excepted employees, Reclamation has identified a tier of "on call" employees who can be recalled to their posts in an emergency to handle these types of contingencies.

**How were Reclamation personnel determined to be excepted or available on-call?**

Reclamation's excepted personnel are determined by similar criteria as at all Federal agencies: employees performing work ensuring the safety of human life or the protection of government property. Additionally, Reclamation employees deemed excepted include those performing work in the category of compliance, inspection and enforcement and those directly involved in the delivery of water and hydropower in our 17 state service area.

**Will water users, including irrigators, be affected if routine operations are impacted?**

Water delivery will not be disrupted.

**What happens to the regularly scheduled visits by Reclamation's Dam Safety office?**

The inspections will continue. This determination directly applies to personnel in the category of compliance, inspection and enforcement and encompasses Reclamation employees involved in the delivery of water and power.

**Will the Reclamation Emergency Operations Center (EOC) be open?**

There will be no change to normal EOC procedures during this period. The EOC is available 24/7 by contacting Pat Hagan at (303) 445-2759 or [phagan@usbr.gov](mailto:phagan@usbr.gov). Reporting on serious incident and suspicious activity will continue through the Reclamation Duty Officer at (303) 748-7220.

**What is the role of the Reclamation Incident Management Team (RIMT)?**

The role of the Reclamation Incident Management Team (RIMT) is to assist the Washington Office in the coordination of preparedness and operational activities with the Denver and regional offices. The hours of operations for the RIMT Command Post are from 7 A.M. to 4 P.M. Mountain Time.

**Can I still go water skiing or use the reservoirs recreationally?**

Recreation areas located on Reclamation land and water bodies may be directly managed by Reclamation, by another Federal agency, or by a non-Federal managing partner. In the event of a lapse in appropriations, recreation areas managed directly by Reclamation, and which are funded through appropriations, will be closed. Those which are not funded by appropriations will remain open. Decisions on whether areas managed by a Federal partner will remain open will be made by each Federal managing partner. Those recreation areas managed by a non-Federal partner will remain open at the discretion of the partner. To determine the manager for any particular recreation area or the status of any recreation area directly managed by Reclamation, please contact the local Reclamation office.

**Will Reclamation visitor centers remain open?**

During this period, Reclamation visitor centers that are funded through appropriations will be closed. Those not funded by appropriations, including visitor centers at Hoover Dam, Glen Canyon Dam, Flaming Gorge Dam, and Grand Coulee Dam, will remain open. To determine if a visitor center is open, please contact the facility directly.

**Will recreation area concessionaires remain open?**

Reclamation will not require concessionaires to close. These businesses are mostly operated by the private sector and are not dependent upon appropriations or the presence of Reclamation staff to operate. As for concessionaires located at recreation areas not directly managed by Reclamation, we have no information as to their plans. In this case, the appropriate managing partner should be contacted.

**Is there anyone I can contact if I have questions?**

Please visit the DOI website at [www.DOI.gov](http://www.DOI.gov).